

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04668 231910Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00  
/072 W

-----031411 240848Z /12

R 231733Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6133  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4668

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: MILI MARR PEPR NATO PO SP  
SUBJECT: SOARES REPORTS ON CONVERSATION WITH  
FELIPE GONZALEZ

REF: LISBON 4571

1. PRIME MINISTER SOARES AND I HAD LUNCH ON JUNE 22  
FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON BEFORE MY CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON.  
AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, SOARES WANTED TO TELL ME ABOUT HIS  
EXCHANGE WITH SPANISH SOCIALIST LEADER, FELIPE GONZALEZ,  
ON THE QUESTION OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO (REFTEL).

2. SOARES SAID THAT HIS EXCHANGE WITH GONZALEZ ON NATO  
HAD BEEN WIDELY MISREPORTED IN THE PRESS. HE HAD NOT TOLD  
SPANISH JOURNALISTS THAT HIS PARTY SUPPORTED THE PSOE  
POSITION ON NATO. RATHER, HE HAD SAID THAT HE HAD LISTENED  
TO THE SPANISH SOCIALIST'S POSITION, RESPECTED IT, BUT THAT  
THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS HAD A DIFFERENT POSITION REGARDING  
PORTUGAL'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. SOARES TOLD ME THAT GONZALEZ  
HAD PRIVATELY TOLD HIM THAT HIS PARTY'S MAIN CONCERN  
WAS TO AVOID A NATIONAL DEBATE ON SPANISH ENTRY INTO  
NATO IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE SUCH A DEBATE WOULD  
BE EXTREMELY DIVISIVE AND COULD THREATEN SPANISH  
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DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. GONZALEZ HAD ALSO TOLD SOARES  
THAT FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW IT WAS BETTER TO LET  
SLEEPING DOGS LIE, I.E. A DEBATE OVER ENTRY  
INTO NATO COULD ALSO RAISE THE ISSUE OF CONTINUED U.S.  
USE OF SPANISH BASES. IN RESPONSE I POINTED OUT TO SOARES THAT OUR  
POSITION WAS THAT SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO WAS A MATTER FOR SPANIARDS  
TO DECIDE AND THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF PRESSING THE

ISSUE.

BLOOMFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** REPORTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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